containing sections 138 to 142 in the Negotiable Instruments Act;

(b) if so, what are the main considerations for incorporation of this new chapter; and

(c) whether there will be any liability provision for the erring banks if they wilfully or by oversight return the cheque unpaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A new Chapter XVII has already been incorporated in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 by virtue of section 4 of the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 (66 of 1988).

(b) The main considerations, *inter alia* include to enhance the acceptability of cheques in settlement of liabilities by making the drawer liable for penalities in case bouncing of cheque is due to insufficiency of funds in the account or for the reason that it exceeds the arrangements made by the drawer However, there are adequate safeguards to prevent harassment of honest drawers.

(c) Section 31 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 already provides that the drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required so to do, and, in default of such payment must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such default.

Dacoities in trains between Delhi and Calcutta

991. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dacoities are common in trains passing from Delhi to Calcutta particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether one such dacoity took place on November 25, 1988 in the Deluxe-104 DN from Delhi to Calcutta.

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to check dacoities in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to registered and investigated by the State Government agencies including Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments.

However, according to available information there was no case of dacoity on the 104 DN Deluxe Express on November 25, 1988 within the jurisdiction of the Northern Railway from Delhi to Mugal Sarai, Information on the incident in the Eastern Railway Zone is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Government Railway Police provides escorts on Fast|Superfast, Mail|Express trains according to local conditions and requirements. Railway Protection Force also assists Government Railway Police in this task as and when necessary.

Codified message regarding movement of V.V.I.Ps.

992. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports that the codified messages

to ensure secrecy regarding the movements of V.V.I.Ps and checks on terrorists by the Delhi Police are being frequently picked up by the amateur radio-operators;

(b) whether Government are aware of the reports of a demonstration to this effect by former Haryana Minister who is a licensed amateur Radio-Operator; and

(c) if so, what is the factual position in this regard and what action has been taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. It may, however, be clarified, that information about VVIP movement is passed on special security frequencies and there is no possibility of leakage of any such information. In so far as messages relating to checking of terrorists are concerned, they are not of secret nature and are passed on to a number of police units including patrol vans, motor cycles, pickets and beat constables.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

P.M.'s instruction on Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary row

993. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a report published in the Times of India of the 8th January, 1989 to the effect that the Prime Minister had asked the Union Home Minister to call the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka to hold talks on the boundary row;

(b) what are the facts about the dispute and the results of the talks held, if any; and

(c) whether the issue was discussed/referred to some Body for their opinion/decision; if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Government have seen the relevant press report.

(b) The Mahajan Commission appointed by the Government of India to go into the border disputes between Maharashtra and Karnataka and between Karnataka and Kerala submitted its Report in 1967. While the Government of Karnataka have been urging the implementation of the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission in toto, the Government of Maharashtra have been pressing for the dispute being settled on the basis of definite principles such as village as a unit, geographical contiguity, linguistic majority, etc. Thus the differences between the two State Governments over the acceptability of the recommendations of the Commission have been persisting.

(c) The Government of India have always been of the view that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government remain in touch with both the State Goverments in the matter. Central assistance as required for arriving at a mutually acceptable solution to this problem will be rendered.

Assault on a postman

994. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on January 3, 1989, a postman on duty